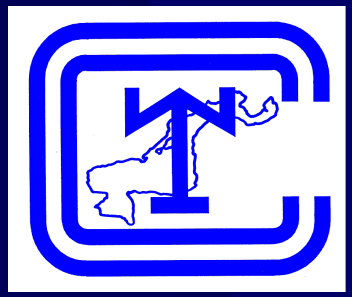
The Joint COCATRAM/IHO/IMA Project

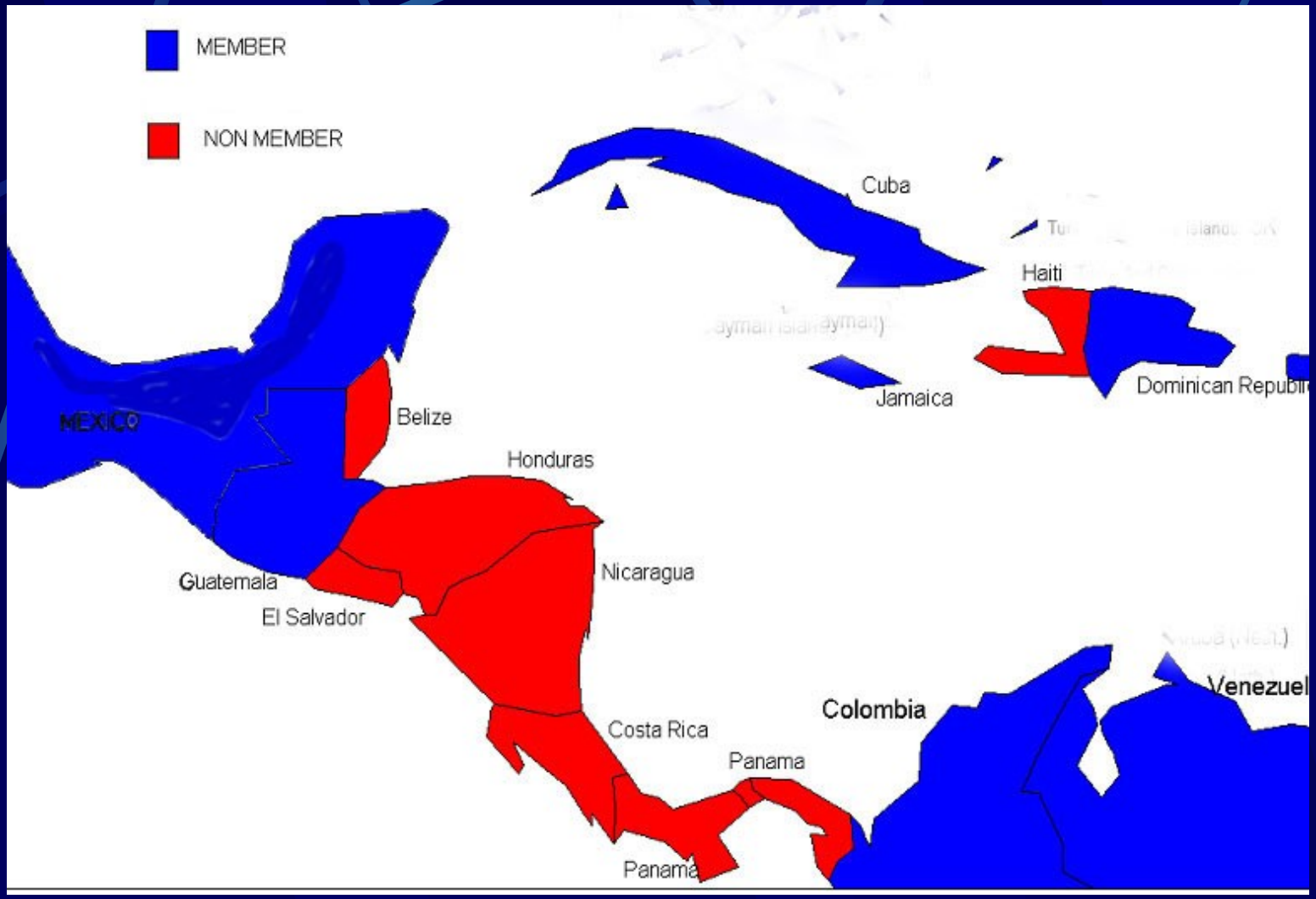


OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- to contribute to an increasing efficiency of the maritime transport, to the safety of navigation and to the marine environment protection in the Central American region

- to provide the Central American Region with a modern hydrographic system, which will enable it to achieve and maintain the cartography of the maritime and fishing zones updated.

IHO MEMBERSHIP IN CENTRAL AMERICA



BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE PROJECT

- **_Assessment on the status of Hydrography. Technical visits to the participating countries, made by specialized personnel**
- **_Advice on the training requirements for personnel, infrastructure and equipment.**
- **_Drafting of the technical specifications of the project.**
- **_Training Courses for Hydrographers and nautical cartographers in accordance with the IHO standards;**
- **Supply of equipment for :**
  - Hydrographic Surveying
  - Production of nautical cartography

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN

- **Technical visit to six countries in Central America (December 2000) (COCATRAM, IHO)**
- **Participation in the Conference held in Madrid, March 2001. (IHO)**
- **Visits to the Inter-american Bank of Development , World Bank (IHO)**
- **Visit to the Secretariat of the « Plan Puebla-Panama » to present the project**. (IHO, COCATRAM, MEXICO)
- **Seminar held in Panama (July 2002) with countries, COCATRAM, IHO and IMA. Incorporation of IMA as partner of the project. Agreement to split the project into two phases.**
- **Development by IMA of the First Phase of the Project for submission to the European Commission**

SCHEDULE OF THE 1st PHASE

(In cooperation with IMA)

1 Supply of Hydrographic Equipment and Systems for

Hydrographic Surveys in accordance with international standards (IHO);

- Automated Surveys Planning and Execution and Data Acquisition;

- Data Processing and Automated Fair Sheets production to be used for the subsequent Nautical Charts compilation.

2 Supply of complete Cartographic System

- Compilation of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs), in accordance with the IHO international standard S-57, using both digital data from new surveys and existing data of

- Verification and quality control of the cartography (ENC) able to validate and officialise.

The produced ENCs will be the background for the traditional paper chart production.

3 Establishment of a Regional Hydrographic Network connecting the Hydrographic Services of the Central American region.

The electronic interconnection, that is fundamental for the functional data management among the Hydrographic Services of the Central America, will be the backbone of the Project and will allow:

*** An efficient exchange of hydrographic and cartographic information among the Services, in order to facilitate the production of regionally functional and harmonised navigational products;**

*** To create standardized cartographic archives in all the Countries, that can merge in a single virtual data bank available to the users through a Distribution System.**

*** To strengthen and improve relationship and co-operation among the Hydrographic Services of the participating Countries**

SCHEDULE FOR THE 1ST PHASE

- 1. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT TO THE E.C. (by end October 2002)
- 2. POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT (April 2003)
- 3. FIRST MEETING (INITIAL) OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE PROJECT (POSSIBLY IN JUNE 2003)
- 4. IIMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT (during 36 months)

COURSES FORECASTED (IMA)

Course of HYDROGRAPHY (Level "B"), with specialization in Coastal Zones Management - 24 weeks -;

Course of NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHY - 32 weeks -;

Course of ENC PRODUCTION - 7 weeks -;

Course of ENC VALIDATION and UPDATING - 4 weeks -;

Course of ENC DISTRIBUTION - 3 weeks -.

STATEMENT OF COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE FIRST MEETING OF EXPERTS IN HYDROGRAPHY AND CARTOGRAPHY OF THE MESOAMERICAN REGION

Los suscritos, representantes de los Servicios Hidrográficos y Cartográficos de Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua y Panamá, participantes en la reunión técnica para la discusión del Proyecto de Establecimiento de los Sistemas Hidrográficos y Cartográficos de los países Centroamericanos, respaldamos la propuesta introducida por la Academia Marítima Internacional (IMA) y manifestamos nuestro interés porque los componentes de la propuesta se concentren primeramente en:

1) **Equipamiento de alta tecnología**

2) **Capacitación de personal necesario de los servicios hidrográficos y de cartografía náutica en cada uno de los países representados en esta reunión.**